

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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MINUTES**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING**

November 6 and 7, 2007

**Resources Building, 1416 9th Street, 1st Floor Resources Auditorium
Sacramento, California**

Board Members Participating: Stan Dixon, Chair
Pam Giacomini, Vice-Chair
Jim Ostrowski
Gary Nakamura
Tom Walz
Bruce Saito
Lloyd Bradshaw
David Nawi
Doug Piirto

Board Staff: George Gentry, Executive Officer
Eric Huff, Foresters Licensing
Chris Zimny, Regulations and Policy Coordinator
Teri Ashby, Board Counsel

Department Staff: Crawford Tuttle, Chief Deputy Director
Ken McLean, Deputy Director, Fire Protection
Dave Hillman, Deputy Director, Law Enforcement

EXECUTIVE SESSION
November 6, 2007; 4:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Session was not convened.

REGULAR SESSION
November 7, 2007; 8:00 AM

3. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**

Chairman Dixon convened the regular session of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and called the meeting to order.

The Chairman then explained to the audience that the day's agenda would be shortened due to speaker cancellations and the effect of the Southern California fires on Department staffing. Specifically, Agenda Items 10, 11, 12, and 13 will not be dealt with at today's meeting.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No actions were announced, as the Executive Session was not convened.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING

11-07-05 Member Bradshaw moved approval of the Draft Minutes for the September 2007 Board Meeting and Member Saito seconded the motion. The motion carried with Member Nawi's abstention as he had not received a copy of the draft minutes for review.

The draft minutes for the October 2007 Board Meeting are pending.

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Dixon discussed his field trip on the Van Eck Conservancy Project in Humboldt County. Other field trip participants included Laurie Wayburn of the Pacific Forest Trust, former CDF Director, Andrea Tuttle, and California Air Resources Board Chairperson, Mary Nichols and various staff.

The Chairman also mentioned his visit in the company of Member Saito, and Michael Jarvis, *CAL FIRE* Deputy Director of Communications to the Southern California fire siege. Member Saito introduced the Chairman to Assembly Speaker Nuñez and they attended the Governor's press conference as well. The Chairman then highlighted the morale of the *CAL FIRE* firefighters he met and the dedication and professionalism they exhibited through their actions and attitude. Chairman Dixon went on to mention the issue concerning the availability of United States Marine Corps aircraft to assist with the Southern California firefight. He indicated that *CAL FIRE* Deputy Director, Ken McLean would be speaking further on that subject during the Report of the Director.

The Chairman also discussed his meeting in Sacramento last week with Executive Officer Gentry on various Board-related matters.

Member Ostrowski asked the Chairman if he and Member Saito were able to see any of the fire activity in forested areas. The Chairman responded that it was not possible to do so in light of circumstances beyond their control.

7. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR/DEPARTMENT

CAL FIRE Chief Deputy Director Crawford Tuttle explained that he and Deputy Director Ken McLean would be providing the Report of the Director. Mr. Tuttle highlighted the Department's deployment of resources in Southern California and introduced Chief McLean to provide further details on the fire siege.

Chief McLean, *CAL FIRE* Deputy Director of Fire Protection delivered an update on the fires in Southern California and provided the Board with two maps for review: one map

indicated the area burned in Southern California fires from 2003 to present; and one map indicating showing only the fires of October 2007.

Chief McLean then provided a chronology of events leading up to and through the current fire siege. He noted that on the basis of weather predictions, the Department began moving resources into Southern California in anticipation of the fires to come. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) began preparations for mass public evacuations and called in additional resources from places as far away as the state of Maine. The result was a well-coordinated and highly successful evacuation of local populations along with an enormous mobilization of multi-jurisdiction, firefighting resources.

Chief McLean explained that Headquarters personnel were put in place on day two of the siege for the purpose of gathering information to support the Office of Emergency Service's comprehensive "After Action Report." He mentioned that some of the data gathered from remote weather stations recorded 24-hour sustained winds in the 50-60 mile per hour range with gusts of 10-15 miles per hour. The Chief emphasized the courageous action of air resource personnel. He related an account of one S-2 tanker aircraft that was almost lost when it was hit with a wind gust that nearly inverted the aircraft. This event occurred when the majority of aircraft had already been grounded due to high winds.

Chief McLean then noted that most of the Department's resources have been demobilized, but that a strategic reserve force will remain in place in Southern California through the remainder of the month.

The Chief went on to describe the deployment of air resources during the fire siege. He mentioned that the total deployment included state, federal and contract aircraft as well as aircraft from the United States National Guard and Navy. United States Marine Corps aircraft have also been added and the Department is making good progress on a long term operating plan with the Marines.

Chief McLean concluded by reiterating that a comprehensive after action report will be completed soon and provided to the Board thereafter. The Blue Ribbon Fire Task Force, previously appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger following the 2003 fire siege, is presently meeting to evaluate the response to this latest fire siege.

Chief Deputy Director Tuttle provided an update on other Department actions in the wake of the fire siege. He noted that the federal Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Teams have been dispatched and watershed assessments are being conducted on all of the fires regardless of jurisdiction. An 18-agency Multi-Agency Support Group (MASG) has been created to coordinate the multi-agency response and manage BAER Team watershed assessment, damage mitigations, and related data collection. A significant amount of geospatial data is being collected and will be used to generate maps and other information. It is anticipated that this data will be provided in report form to the Board and general public.

Tuttle offered his thanks and appreciation to the regulated public for their patience as timber harvesting plan review has been delayed due to the draw-down in resource management staff. It is anticipated that the delays will be of short duration.

Member Walz asked Chief Deputy Director Tuttle if the post-fire data gathered by the Department and others will be used to evaluate future emergency response. Tuttle responded affirmatively and added that local jurisdictions will likewise be able to use the information gathered to effect policy changes at the local level.

Dave Hillman, *CAL FIRE* Deputy Director of Law Enforcement then noted that the Department's "High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Mapping Project" currently in progress corroborated well with the location and extent of the actual fires. The maps really validate the Department's long term concerns for fire protection in the urban-wildland interface and should help guide future local government decisions with regard to building and infrastructure.

Chairman Dixon expressed his hope that local jurisdictions will indeed use the information generated by the Department and others to prevent residential construction in non-defensible locations.

Chief Deputy Director Tuttle offered a final remark in response to Chairman Dixon noting that the Green Valley Fire illustrated what can be done with the combination of community fuel breaks, defensible space clearance around homes, and fire-resistant building materials.

Member Nawi mentioned his visit to the emergency command center at Mather Field as they prepared for the visit from the Governor. The coordinated effort amongst a wide variety of local, state, and federal agencies was impressive. While at the command center, Member Nawi was shown a map by Mr. Wayne Mitchell of *CAL FIRE* indicating that where fuels treatments had occurred, fire movement was stopped. Member Nawi concluded by offering his respect and appreciation for the Department's efforts throughout the fire siege.

Member Nakamura asked Chief Deputy Director Tuttle whether or not the data collected by the BAER Teams and MASG would be provided in report form to the Board. Member Nakamura suggested that it would be very helpful to the public's understanding of the fire and its effects if information showing where fuels treatments and defensible space requirements were effective in stopping fire spread. He further asked if Mr. Tuttle had any knowledge on the success or failure of the "shelter in place" approach adopted by the community of Rancho Santa Fe. Member Nakamura noted that the community had eventually been evacuated. Mr. Tuttle responded that he had no specific knowledge as to how that community fared and suggested that Deputy Director McLean might be able to answer the question.

Member Bradshaw offered his appreciation of the Department's efforts. He then asked how responsibility for a multi-jurisdictional fire is established. Deputy Director McLean responded with a detailed explanation as to how jurisdiction is managed and how priorities for scarce resources are allocated. Member Bradshaw followed up with a question as to how military assets are assigned to the various fires. Deputy Director McLean responded that military assets are deployed just like any other asset with day by day assignment by the overarching incident management team on the basis of priority and proximity to the fire.

Deputy Director McLean then provided an update on the ongoing recovery of the *CAL FIRE* firefighters that were burned over early on in the siege.

Member Piirto offered his appreciation to the men and women of *CAL FIRE* for their remarkable service to the citizens of California throughout the siege.

Executive Officer Gentry then asked Chief Deputy Director Tuttle if the Department was prepared to provide the Board with the comprehensive 'after action report' and any associated data and materials for the Board's consideration as it continues the revision of the state fire plan. Mr. Tuttle responded affirmatively.

Chairman Dixon concluded with his observations on the media hype regarding Marine Corps aircraft availability during the fire siege. He further offered his appreciation for *CAL FIRE* and commended Chief Deputy Director Tuttle and Deputy Director McLean for their thorough reports and responses to questions.

The Chairman asked CDF Firefighters representative, Kevin O'Meara for any further information on the burned over firefighters. Mr. O'Meara responded that he had heard that the fundraiser for the firefighters was enormously successful. Mr. O'Meara also updated the Board that the memorial for Rob Stone and Sandy Willett at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest was dedicated in August.

8. REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- **California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF)**
COMTF Chair, Mark Stanley provided the Members with a written report (hard copy in Board's November 2007 Master Meeting Binder) and highlighted the key elements within it.
- **Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)**
No report for this month. RMAC is due to meet November 27 and 28, 2007.
- **Monitoring Study Group (MSG)**
The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2007 at Howard Forest in Willits.
- **Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC)**
Foresters Licensing Officer, Eric Huff reported that the next PFEC meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2007. He noted that 16 applicants took the October 12, 2007 RPF Examination and that the exam results would be reviewed at the next PFEC meeting. Huff advised the Members that the hearing on license revocation Case 217 has been rescheduled for December 10, 2007.

Mr. Huff presented the Members with a request for reinstatement by Mr. William Dean, RPF No. 150.

11-07-08.1 Member Bradshaw moved approval of the reinstatement request and Member Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Huff then presented the Members with the nomination of Mr. Bill Frost as an additional Certified Specialty (CRM) representative and requested Board action on the nomination.

11-07-08.2 Member Giacomini moved approval of the nomination and Member Piirto seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. STAFF PRESENTATION OF THE FRANCIS H. RAYMOND AWARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006 AND 2007.

Foresters Licensing Officer, Eric Huff briefly summarized the discussion of award candidates by Raymond Award Committee Members. He then presented the Committee's recommendation that Mr. Bill Dennison be given the Award for 2006, and Mr. Scott Johnson for 2007. The Board concurred unanimously with the Committee's recommendations. Staff will coordinate Award banquets for each of the recipients.

Agenda Items 10-13 were deferred until at least the December Meeting

14. REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S FOREST PRACTICE, POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEES

- **Forest Practice**

Committee Chair Nawi noted that staff had produced a written summary of the meeting.

11-07-14 Chair Nawi moved that the fire lookout regulatory proposal be added to the Board's agenda for consideration in December. Member Ostrowski seconded the motion. There was brief discussion prior to unanimous concurrence on the motion.

- **Policy**

Committee Chair Ostrowski highlighted discussion topics, but no action items were presented.

- **Management**

Chair Piirto noted that staff had produced a written summary of the meeting. He then highlighted discussion topics, but no action items were presented.

- **Resource Protection**

Chair Giacomini noted that staff had produced a written summary of the meeting. She then highlighted discussion topics, but no action items were presented.

15. REPORT OF THE REGULATIONS AND POLICY COORDINATOR

Regulations and Policy Coordinator, Chris Zimny provided an update on the status of Board-adopted regulatory proposals. Mr. Zimny also reported on the status of the revised Technical Advisory Committee Literature Review Request For Proposal. The Request For Proposal has not yet been published, but is anticipated in the future.

Mr. Zimny then noted that the Forest Practice Committee had also discussed the possibility of a Board workshop on the Road Rules Regulatory Proposal. Member Nawi provided further information on this topic and suggested that the Road Rules Committee will need to weigh in on the timing of such a workshop. The Board concurred with the suggestion subject to the discretion of the Executive Officer and Board Chair working with members of the Road Rules Committee.

Member Nawi then asked Mr. Zimny for a status report on the Department of Fish and Game's filing of the Coho ITP §2112 regulatory proposal. Mr. Zimny did not have an answer at this time, but pledged to follow-up with a response in the future.

16. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Executive Officer Gentry provided an update on Executive Assistant, Carol Horn's health.

17. PUBLIC FORUM

Richard Gienger remarked on the COMTF Report and the Humboldt County matter regarding local regulation of TPZ lands.

Bill Keye remarked on his attendance of the annual Society of American Foresters Meeting held in Portland, Oregon this year. He noted that the notion of monetizing ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, and bio-energy production is rapidly moving closer to reality. He announced the CLFA Annual Meeting in March and the invitation of Governor Schwarzenegger to come speak there. At the prompting of Member Bradshaw, Mr. Keye also noted the success of the CLFA workshop on "forestry and anadromy."

18. NEW AND UNFINISHED

Member Ostrowski noted his attendance of the CLFA workshop on "forestry and anadromy" and offered his observations on that day.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman adjourned the November 7, 2007 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at 1005 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

ATTEST:

George D. Gentry
Executive Officer

Stan Dixon
Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets may be obtained from the Board office.